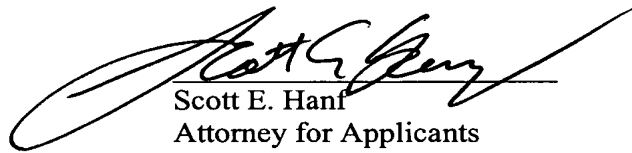


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove multiple independent claims. The claims were also amended to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter was added.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott E. Hanf", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott E. Hanf
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,906

Customer No. 29494
Hammer & Hanf, P.C.
3125 Springbank Lane
Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

H:\2024\004\PrelimAmend051006.doc